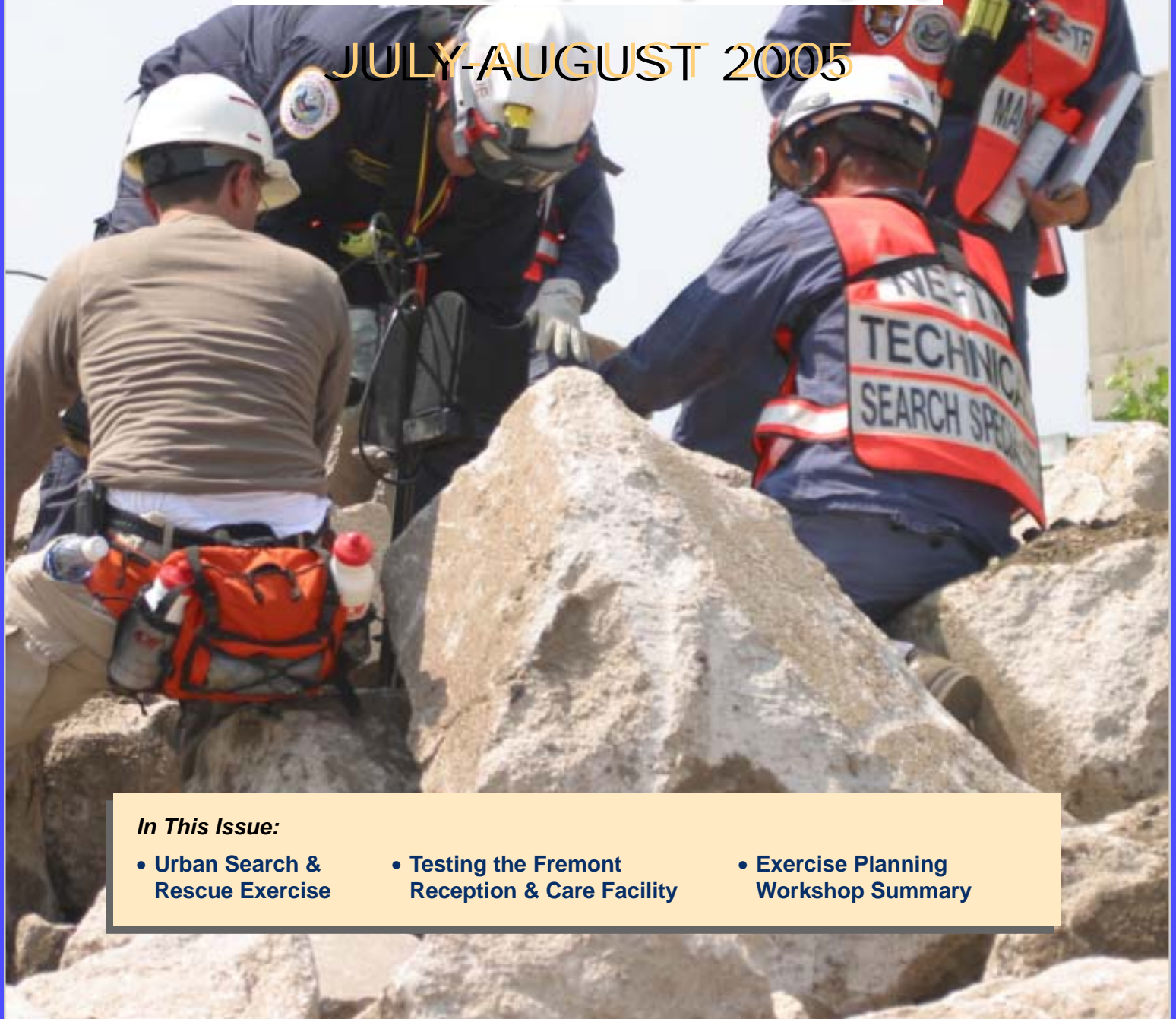


# THE BEACON



**Nebraska Emergency Management Agency**

**JULY-AUGUST 2005**



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## 36-HOUR EXERCISE TESTS NEBRASKA URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE TASK FORCE CAPABILITIES

Thirty-six hours of climbing over and crawling through rubble ought to tell you something about a group of people. That's the main idea behind the training exercise conducted July 16th by the Nebraska Urban Search and Rescue task force, a division of Lincoln Fire and Rescue.



The task force is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a 36-hour training exercise every year. This year's exercise provided a serious test for the approximately 160 responders involved. The temperature reached an official high of 98 degrees on Saturday, with humidity as high as 84 percent. Carrying loads of up to 60 lbs., personnel and dogs climbed over a small mountain of concrete rubble and twisted steel searching for victims prepositioned in scattered locations beneath the debris. In all, sixteen tons of



material had been carefully positioned to approximate an actual disaster scene at the former missile site near Mead.

The Nebraska task force is part of a 28-task force network that stands ready to respond in the event of a Presidential disaster declaration. The



team's partial and full deployment history includes Hurricane Emily, 1993; Oklahoma City Bombing, 1995; Hurricane Opal, 1995; Hurricane Bertha, 1996; Atlanta Olympics, 1996; San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1996; DeBruce Grain, 1998; Oklahoma Tornadoes, 1999; Pentagon, 2001; World Trade Center, 2001; Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, 2002; Space Shuttle Columbia, 2003.



# FREMONT RECEPTION AND CARE FACILITY EVALUATED

## *Move necessitates re-examination*

The Fremont Reception and Care Center underwent an out-of-sequence evaluation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on June 14, 2005.

Centers are usually evaluated on an alternating basis, with one facility examined during each exercise year. Fremont demonstrated during the Calhoun exercise in 2003, and 2005 was to be focused on the Bellevue R&C Center, but because the reception center was moved from the Fremont High School to the Fremont Middle School this past year, FEMA required demonstration of the evaluation criteria in the new facility.



All personnel entering the reception and care center went through the "portal" to ensure security at the facility.

Bill Pook orchestrated a great response, according to Sandra Paice, Radiological Emergency Preparedness Planner for NEMA. Seven individuals from Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) ran traffic control, eight members of the Fremont Fire Dept. set up and ran the monitoring and decontamination area, and two women from Three Rivers Public Health Department came in to work with another female volunteer from Sarpy County to cover the decontamination efforts regarding female evacuees. The



Bill Pook (left), Region 5/6 Emergency Management Director, discusses traffic control during the Fremont Junior High R&C evaluation.

American Red Cross had eight people to cover registration and family tracking, and the Salvation Army contributed two individuals for other assistance.

Pook had two other individuals from Region 5/6 helping with administration, and recruited 7-10 volunteers to walk through the portal monitor to be scanned.

FEMA provided seven evaluators to cover all areas being evaluated.

"There are still some areas to work on, but, overall, everyone did a great job!", said Paice.



Registration is vital at R&C Centers, in order to account for evacuees and to provide data to be used in responding to requests from outside for information about loved ones.

# EXERCISE PLANNING WORKSHOP FEATURES CHANGES

## *National Response Plan, federal issues dictate changes at state and local levels*

During the Exercise Planning Workshop held July 13th in North Platte, NEMA's Planning section shared with participants several issues coming from OPD-HS that affect state emergency disaster planning and local exercise and operational planning.

The release of the National Response Plan (NRP) in December 2004 and subsequent related documents has created the need for Nebraska to reorganize the State Emergency Operations Plan. With minor rearrangement, which involves the assignment of different Emergency Support Function (ESF) numbers and some title changes, the SEOP will closely mirror the NRP. One new added ESF is ESF #7, the "Resource Support" section, with the Dept. of Administrative Services as the lead state agency.

This comes at an opportune time. Agencies with ESF responsibilities have been asked to complete their annual reviews and submit changes or updates by the end of August.

The revised ESF list consists of: **ESF #1** - Transportation; **#2** - Communications; **#3** - Public Works and Engineering; **#4** - Firefighting; **#5** - Emergency Management; **#6** - Mass Care, Housing and Human Services; **#7** - Resource Support; **#8** - Public Health and Medical Services; **#9** - Urban Search and Rescue; **#10** - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response; **#11** - Agriculture and Natural Resources; **#12** - Energy; **#13** - Public Safety and Security; **#14** - Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation; and, unique to the State plan, **ESF #15** - Military Support.

This reorganization will have little effect on the local jurisdictions' day-to-day activities or on the LEOP format. The State EOP is designed for state agencies and defined by different laws, authorities and directives than those that structure the LEOP. With this reorganization, the State and its agencies will be closely aligned with the NRP, and with the completion of the annual review the

agencies will be better able to support the local jurisdictions in times of need.

The Planning section also gave their analysis of the NRP, HSPD-8 and the related documents of the Universal Tasks List, the National Planning Scenarios, the Target Capabilities and the Seven National Priorities. All of these will have an impact on local jurisdictions, especially in the areas of planning, exercise and training and especially in the area of continued grant funding.

The direction HS is moving, as expressed by the presenter, is that the emphasis will be on verifying the increased local capability provided by HS dollars to this point, and the need to reassess the shortfalls and gaps as identified by the exercise program. A major recurring theme was that not all jurisdictions have the same risks, do not have the same capabilities, and not all will receive funding at current levels. Those jurisdictions who look at increased regionalization, cooperation across political borders, cooperative agreements for shared resources will fare better than those communities who choose to stand alone. There is also a better chance for continued funding for those that have a plan to meet the seven national priorities. These activities are already well in place in several of our communities.

At the end of the day, the audience was left to draw their own conclusions on the future for their jurisdictions based on the following summations from a national perspective: verifiable risk assessments will determine needs; current funding should have reduced past needs, thus lowering expectations for increased funding; only a chosen few will be funded; capability-based planning, policies, training and plan revisions will increase opportunities for funding; and those that implement regional cooperative agreements and shared resources and responsibilities may have a better chance to benefit from future federal funding.



# JOINT EFFORT



*Lincoln Fire, Lancaster County Health and Nebraska National Guard WMD Civil Support Team joint effort is final step in week of exercises*

A combination of biological agents and explosive devices tested the joint response capability of Lincoln first responders and the Nebraska National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) in early August.

team is a full-time federally funded unit established to support local first responders in events involving weapons of mass destruction.

The local responders were the first on the scene, and performed their own Hazmat operations, calling in the CST only when it was determined that the situation called for resources and equipment not available at the local level. Created in 2004 by presidential directive, the Nebraska team exists to supplement local responders with equipment and capabilities above and beyond those available locally. Similar teams exist in all other states.

When the last responder was decontaminated, and the final piece of gear was packed away, the cooperative response process had been tuned just a little finer.



The exercise at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds concluded a three-city, week-long evaluation under the auspices of the 5th Army Civil Support Training Group. Earlier in the week the CST had exercised in the metro Omaha area, and had followed that up with a mid-week exercise in Beatrice.

Working in conjunction with the Lincoln Fire Department and the Lancaster County Health Department, with support from the American Red Cross, the CST exercised the deployment of numerous elements of their response capability. The





**TEREX or TERREX** - depending on how you look at it. Currently the State Exercise Design Team is working on the upcoming **TEREX** exercises. **TEREX 2005** a state wide functional exercise, started in January of 2004 with the state design team working on objectives. From that meeting, **TERREX 2005.5** was born. **TEREX 5.5** which it is now called, will be a full scale exercise affecting 10 state agencies and over half the state. In June of this year the design team started planning for **TEREX 2006**. Stay tuned for details to come.

**Basic and Advanced Academy** - August 22nd - 26th. NEMA will be providing the **Basic** and **Advanced Certification** courses in Lincoln at the Villager Courtyard and Gardens here in Lincoln. There are 24 people signed up for Basic Academy and 25 signed up for Advanced. As is customary, Basic will include: Hazmat Awareness taught by NEMA's own Kent Studnicka; NIMS, LEOP/SEOP orientation; Weather Spotting, taught by Brian Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from the National Weather Service; and Exercise Planning. This year's advanced courses will include Effective Communication and Leadership & Influence.

### ***Upcoming Training provided by NEMA:***

**NeHSEEP** - Nebraska Homeland Security Exercise Eval Program, held in North Platte Oct 3- 6th. NeHSEEP sets the stage for exercise development. The first two days focus on exercise management and the final two days focus on evaluation. It's a great learning course. This is the prerequisite for Exercise Development.

**Exercise Development** - Held in Beatrice Feb 27th- March 03, 2006. This is a week-long course on exercise development combining HSEEP and NIMS with an exercise at the end. Great course! Notice prerequisite of HSEEP.

## NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TRAINING SCHEDULE

The NEMA Training Program provides emergency management training in a number of areas. Below is the training schedule through March of 2006.

If you are interested in registering for any of the listed training opportunities, please visit our website at [http://www.nebema.org/index\\_html?page=content/training/Training\\_Schedule.htm](http://www.nebema.org/index_html?page=content/training/Training_Schedule.htm), where you can follow links to receive information about and register for our training courses.

After applying for a course, students should check the NEMA web site within a few days to see if they have been accepted, and to get the latest information concerning the course location and administrative instructions.

From the website:

- To register please click on the intended course
- To check the status of enrollment, course and hotel location information or any other special requirements click on the "Participant's List/Acceptance Letter. This list will be updated twice a week.
- Once a brochure becomes available for each specific course, you may click on the word "Brochure" listed under the "Date" column to either view it or print out this information. Any student who is unable to attend a course for which they have enrolled and been accepted must notify the training department as soon as possible.-

In the event that the number of applicants for a scheduled course is insufficient to warrant proceeding with the course, notice of cancellation and/or rescheduling will be sent to all applicants of record as soon as possible.

## TRAINING - CALENDAR YEAR 2005-2006

\*NOTE\* Our emails have changed, so email addresses printed in the brochures will be wrong. To contact the class manager, please click on their name in the course manager column on the website. Thanks!

<b><u>COURSE &amp; REGISTRATION</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE MANAGER</u></b>
NeHSEEP	<u>October 3-6th</u> (Brochure)	<u>North Platte</u> Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites	Tonya Smith
Exercise Development	<u>February 27th-</u> <u>March 3rd, 2006</u> (Brochure)	<u>Beatrice</u> Holiday Inn Express	DeWayne Morrow
Avanced Academy	<u>March 27-29, 2006</u>	<u>TBD</u>	Kent Studnicka
Basic Academy	<u>March 27-31, 2006</u>	<u>TBD</u>	Dave Reisen





**CASS COUNTY  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CPR SAVES LIVES! TRAIN TO BE A HERO AT ANY AGE!**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2005 IS CPR DAY IN CASS COUNTY.**

**Come to this FREE American Heart Association CPR for Family and Friends CPR Class and You will learn the skills that may save a life.**

The Cass County Emergency Management Agency, along with the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness and the Cass County Cooperative Extension Service will be holding FREE American Heart Association CPR Training on Saturday September 24 2005 at the Emergency Management and Extension Offices on the Northeast corner of the Cass County Fairgrounds. The Training offered will include both adult and child/infant CPR and Obstructed Airway classes. Each class will last approximately two hours and interested persons can sign up for either one or both programs. Classes will be offered at 9:00 and 11:00 AM and 1:00 and 3:00 PM.

Pre Registration is required for these classes. To register, call the Sarpy/Cass Department of Health and Wellness at **1-800-645-0134** or **1-402-339-4334**. Class sizes are limited so call today to get the classes you want.